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(54) Title: UNUSUALLY NARROW PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION CALCINED KAOLINS

(particle size at a cumulative mass of < 80%) (particle size at a cumulative mass of < 20%)

(particle size at a cumulative mass of < 80%) ≤ 3.5. (particle size at a cumulative mass of < 40%)

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to calcined kaolin having an unusually narrow particle size distribution. The calcined kaolin can have a particle size distribution wherein: (I). The calcined kaolin may be prepared from a hydrous kaolin having a particle size distribution, wherein: (II). The calcined kaolin can be used in many applications, such as paint and coating compositions for paper or paper board, and more generally, the inventive products may be used wherever calcined kaolins are used.



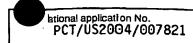


INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intel I Application No PCT/US2004/007821

| | C09C1/42 C01B33/40 | | C08K3/34 | | | | |
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| According to | International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification | on and IPC | | | | | |
| B. FIELDS | SEARCHED | | | | | | |
| Minimum do IPC 7 | cumentation searched (classification system followed by classification CO4B BO1J D21H CO8K CO9C CO1B | symbols) | | | | | |
| Documentat | ion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that suc | th documents are included in the fi | elds searched | | | | |
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| | ata base consulted during the international search (name of data base | | | | | | |
| EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data, INSPEC, COMPENDEX | | | | | | | |
| C. DOCUME | ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | | | | |
| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relev | ant passages | Relevant to claim No. | | | | |
| X | US 5 393 340 A (SLEPETYS RICHARD 28 February 1995 (1995-02-28) tables I,VI | A ET AL) | 1-22 | | | | |
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| A | US 6 150 289 A (CHEN CHING-YIH E 21 November 2000 (2000-11-21) table v | T AL) | 1-22 | | | | |
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| Furt | her documents are listed in the continuation of box C. | X Patent family members an | e listed in annex. | | | | |
| ° Special ca | itegories of cited documents : | "T" later document published after | the international filing date | | | | |
| "A" docume | ent defining the general state of the art which is not | or priority date and not in cont cited to understand the princip | ple or theory underlying the | | | | |
| "E" earlier | | invention "X" document of particular relevant | ce; the claimed invention | | | | |
| filing o | iate ent which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or | | n the document is taken alone | | | | |
| which citatio | is cited to establish the publication date of another n or other special reason (as specified) | "Y" document of particular relevan cannot be considered to invol | ve an inventive step when the | | | | |
| other | ent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or means | document is combined with o ments, such combination beir in the art. | ng obvious to a person skilled | | | | |
| "P" docum later t | *P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *& document member of the same patent family | | | | | | |
| Date of the | actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the internati | onal search report | | | | |
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| Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer | | | | | | | |
| | European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 | Munro, B | | | | | |





| Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet) | |
|---|---|
| This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons: | _ |
| 1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: | |
| | |
| Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically: | |
| 3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a). | |
| Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet) | |
| This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows: | |
| see additional sheet | |
| As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims. | |
| 2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee. | |
| 3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.: | |
| 4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1 - 22 | |
| Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees. | |

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-22

Claims 1-22 concern compositions comprising calcined kaolin having a certain particle size distribution, a particular range of median particle size and a low amount of alkali and alkaline earth metals, and further products and a process which use such compositions.

2. claims: claims 23-36

Concerns methods for preparing calcined kaolin whereby the calcined kaolin and the hydrous kaolin have particular psd's, with calcining at 500-1200°C.

3. claims: 37-40

Claims 37-40 concern a composition (same partilce size distribution as in claim 1) and a process (hydrous kaolin has the same psd. as in cl. 23), whereby hydrous kaolin from the Rio Capim area of Brazil is used to obtain the calcined kaolin product.

4. claims: 41-43

Claims 41-43 concern a composition (same psd as in cl. 1) and a process (hydrous kaolin has the same psd. as in cl. 23) characterized by refining in the absence of a defining step.

5. claims: 44, 45

Independent claim 44 defines a calcined kaolin composition with the same particle size distribution as claim 1, but with a median particle size greater than 1 micron and a certain value of oil absorption.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Intu al Application No
PCT/US2004/007821

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